

## Engineering success

A former U of A vice president heads new granting agency.

2

## The future's so small

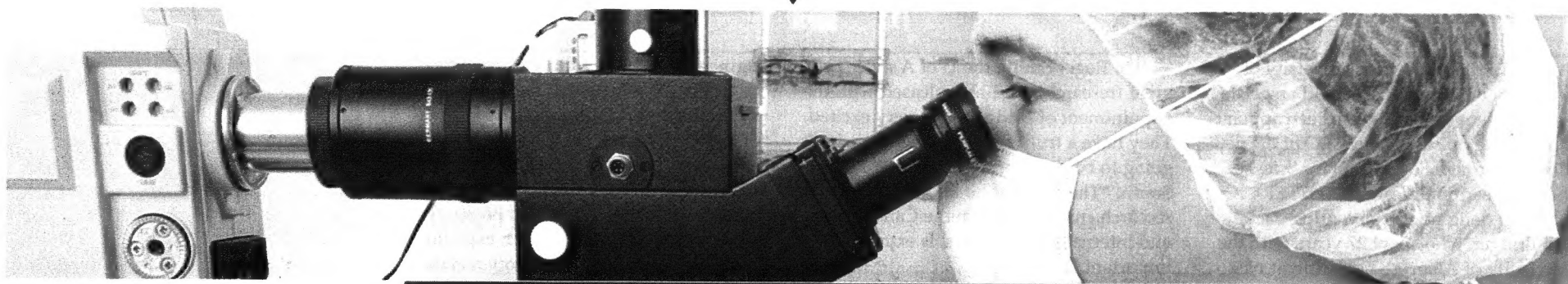
The University of Alberta wants to take a leadership role in nanotechnology—a science in which little things are really big.

3

## 26.2 miles to glory

Sandy Jacobson wins a spot on Canada's national marathon team.

7



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

# folio

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## Real divas don't doubt themselves

### MFA candidate puts Canada's first superstar on stage

By Richard Cairney

Director Laura Roald is pleased things are going so smoothly as she prepares for the opening night of Quebec playwright Simon Fortin's *The Country in Her Throat*. Things have gone so well, in fact, that Roald is beginning to wonder what she's done wrong, what detail she's overlooked.

Such moments of self-doubt would seem foreign to Emma Albani, the play's central character and Canada's first true diva. The Quebec singer left Canada when she was just 16 and, at a time when recorded music didn't exist, managed to earn such a stellar reputation that more than 10,000 fans gathered at a train station, in the cold, to celebrate her return to Montreal a decade later. The play, Roald's MFA-directing thesis, offers a new look at the making of a celebrity.

Albani graduated from the church-hall circuit and made her debut at the prestigious Covent Garden opera house in London in 1872. For the next 30 years, she was one of the best-known artists in the world. "At the time, this was top-40 music, says Roald. "I make the comparison sometimes to Celine Dion."

Emma's father Joseph, a single parent, began instructing Emma in music when she was just four. Convinced his daughter was destined for greater things, Joseph moved the family to Albany, New York. A music teacher and choral conductor, Albani's father also instructed her sister, Cornelia, who became Emma's accompanist, and her brother, who became a pianist. In the play, Emma's story is told through Cornelia's eyes.

"The major question I ask in the play is, 'What would you give up for success—what would you sacrifice for the idea of art?'"

Roald's own family has struggled with the question. Her mother, Donna, stage manages for a handful of small theatre companies in Vancouver. Her father, Glen, is a character actor who makes frequent appearances in television and film productions. Her brother, Trevor, is also an actor. "My Dad has done the *X-Files*, my brother has done the *X-Files*—he's a heart-throb. And my sister is the black sheep of the family—she's an accountant."



Jennifer Spencer as Cornelia, and Shannon Boyle as Emma Albani, tell the story of Canada's first true diva in *The Country in Her Throat*.

Like Albani, Roald was passionate about art at a relatively young age.

"When I was very young, I knew I was going to be a director. I was stage managing when I was 12 and directed my first play when I was 16," she explains. "We had one year when I was in high school when my father was playing Scrooge, I was one of Cratchit's daughters, my sister was the Ghost of Christmas Past, my brother was Tiny Tim and my mother was helping with costume design. During the month of December that year, from Dec. 1 until Dec. 26, we spent 18 days at the theatre. My mom loved it because we were all together for a change."

So Roald knows a thing or two about the sacrifices one inevitably makes for a career in the arts. Her parents have full-time careers away from the arts, providing financial stability and security—something that takes years for full-time artists to gain. Roald's brother is reconsidering acting, for that very reason. "He is at the point where he is looking at me and say-

ing, 'I don't know—I want to be able to make my rent.'"

What makes the director's own experience any different from the hardships someone like Albani endured? "The difference is that no one was putting me through stage managing courses for six hours a day when I was four," Roald explains. "But I do see myself in both Emma and Cornelia, and I think that's probably one of the things that attracted me to this play."

Working on the production has also forced Roald to ponder connotations of the label 'diva.' She sees two sides to the issue: on one hand, tenacious drive is necessary to succeed on stage. And Albani did succeed: she appeared in more than 43 roles in 40 operas, became a favourite of Queen Victoria and ended the Victorian era by singing at the monarch's funeral. But Roald says investing so much into one's career creates an imbalance.

"I think that wearing blinders, keeping your eyes on the prize to the exclu-

sion of all else, is harmful...Divas don't doubt. Divas don't question. It isn't just that there is no room for failure, it's that it can't exist."

And as Roald prepares for a life in the arts, feeling a little nagging doubt about what might go wrong on opening night, she feels the lessons inherent in *The Country in Her Throat* will support her well. In the course of her studies this year, Roald and classmates met with Canadian stage star Martha Henry and found her to be a warm, down-to-earth woman.

"She questions herself. She has doubts, but it's okay to say, 'what if I don't know what I'm doing?' or 'what if I don't know what I am talking about?' It's okay to question yourself. That is one of the greatest things I've learned at the U of A."

*The Country in Her Throat*, which also features set and costume design by MFA candidate Annette Nieuwerk, runs until May 26 at the Timms Centre for the Arts (112 Street north of 87 Ave.) For information call 492-2495. ■



# Former associate VP to lead new research foundation

**Bill Bridger will oversee Alberta Heritage Foundation for Science and Engineering Research**

By Terese Brasen and Richard Cairney

Dr. Bill Bridger, a former University of Alberta department chair and associate vice-president (research), has been appointed founding president and CEO of the new Alberta Heritage Foundation for Science and Engineering Research (AHFSER).

"I am delighted to be coming back," said Bridger, who spent 27 years with the University of Alberta's Department of Biochemistry. He moved to London, Ontario, in 1995 to become vice-president (research) and professor of biochemistry at the University of Western Ontario.

The science and engineering foundation was established to broaden the mandate of the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research, which focuses on medicine and health, to support scientific research in agriculture, forestry and basic sciences. It will use the interest on a \$500 million government of Alberta endowment to fund university and industry research.

Dr. Roger Smith, the U of A's vice president (research), said he's pleased with the appointment of Bridger. "I'm very excited. They have a truly first-rate scientist who is going to be providing leadership," said Smith. "The fact that he knows the Alberta research environment, in the Canadian and international contexts, is extremely important."

The AHFSER will work with the Science and Engineering Advisory Committee (SEAC), an international advisory board. "This is a stellar international group," said Bridger. "They will put an international perspective on what opportunities there are in Alberta."

At Western, Bridger is responsible for the biotech research park, known as the London Biotechnology Commercialization Centre. The park captures and commercializes discoveries in biotechnology, so working with the University of Alberta's Industry Liaison Office will be an easy adjustment.

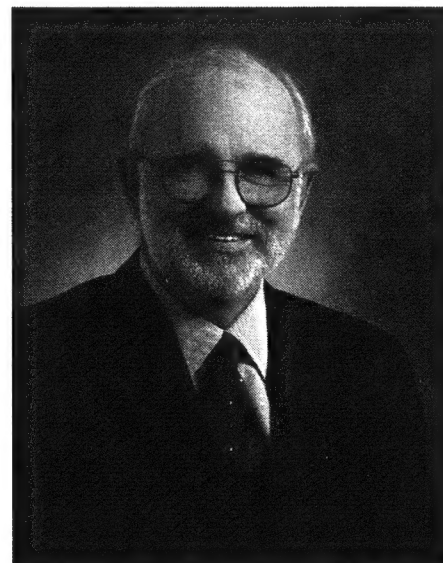
"I am a university person, so what turns my crank is outstanding science," explained Bridger. "That primary objective towers above all the others. At the same time, where appropriate, we must turn our attention to the commercialization of discoveries that come out of the science and

engineering faculties at the universities."

Bridger is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and is internationally known for his work on cell proteins. He grew up in Winnipeg, attended the University of Manitoba, then took a post doc at UCLA with Nobel Laureate Dr. Paul Boyer. "Paul was my mentor," said Bridger, explaining that Boyer was studying energy metabolism.

"He introduced me to my life long work which is trying to figure out how enzymes work. I knew I was working on important things in his lab, and ultimately it turned out to be so important that he won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1997."

When he was 26 years old, Bridger left UCLA to teach at the University of Alberta and eventually became chair of the biochemistry department. During a sabbatical, he studied at the Rockefeller Centre with Dr. Günter Blobel, another Nobel Laureate, who won the Nobel Prize in Medicine in 1999. "The enzyme I've been working with all these years has some interesting biological aspects. So I went to work with Günter Blobel, a leading light in cell biology. From him, I learned the techniques of cloning and molecular and cell biology. That started the second part of my



Bill Bridger is founding president and CEO of the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Science and Engineering research.

scientific career."

Bridger won't take up the presidency until September 1, 2001. But he is already scouting for real estate.

When Bridger begins work, says Smith, there will be a flurry of activity as the foundation gets into gear. "We've all been anxiously awaiting this," said Smith. ■

## folio

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OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS,  
6TH FLOOR GENERAL SERVICES BUILDING  
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA,  
EDMONTON, ALBERTA T6G 2H1

LEE ELLIOTT: Director,  
Office of Public Affairs

RICHARD CAIRNEY: Editor

GEOFF MCMASTER: Assistant Editor

### CONTRIBUTORS:

Teresa Brasen, Richard Cairney, William Cartier,  
Phoebe Dey, Geoff McMaster, Ryan Smith

### GRAPHIC DESIGN:

Ray Au, Dennis Webber, Penny Waite

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### Inquiries,

comments and letters should be directed to Richard Cairney, editor, 492-0439 richard.cairney@ualberta.ca

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## University moves to four-year plans

**Strategy will help influence government, funding agencies**

By Richard Cairney

The University of Alberta is changing the way it plans for the future by developing four-year strategic plans on a department-by-department basis.

The initiative is being viewed with such enthusiasm by the provincial government that it's asking all post-secondary institutions in Alberta to follow suit.

"The province itself runs on three-year plans, so having a four-year plan helps us to better meet the university's needs," said Alberta Learning spokesperson Jerry Bellikka. "It makes a lot of sense because it lets the minister know what needs you will have a year ahead of time."

The scheme was approved at the May 4 Board of Governors' meeting. Under the plan, every faculty and department will draw out a four-year plan that includes goals, measurement standards and financial projections.

Philip Stack, director of resource planning, said the move formalizes some things the U of A has already been doing.

"It isn't as if we haven't been drawing out long-range plans," he said. "Many of these activities have been ongoing for some time. All we are doing is trying to put all those pieces together in some co-ordinated framework. I'd argue a good amount of the work was already being done."

Stack said that by moving to the four-year planning system, the university bene-

fits in several ways: resources are allocated in a more strategic manner; the university is better positioned to take advantage of new opportunities, influence government and other funding agencies, and is better able to communicate its goals; the univer-

"It isn't as if we haven't been drawing out long-range plans. Many of these activities have been ongoing for some time. All we are doing is trying to put all those pieces together in some co-ordinated framework. I'd argue a good amount of the work was already being done."

—Philip Stack

sity's planning is made more accountable.

Stack says the four-year plans will clearly influence action taken by the provincial government because the U of A will be planning a year beyond the government.

"The plan will clearly outline what our resource needs and plans are," he said. "The better our plans are developed and articulated, the better our chances of getting the attention of the minister and treasury—and we have all the documenta-

tion that articulates why this is a priority and how we are going to get there."

The same applies to funding agencies, which expect to see why funding is needed and how it fits with a department and the university's overall goals. The four-year plans will provide applicants with foundations on which to write their requests.

The change met with some opposition at the board level, however, with some board members expressing concern about the lack of performance measures for the process itself. They were also concerned that budget implications—in terms of the

time administrators, faculty and staff spend drafting the plans—had not been considered.

But Stack says the plan's effectiveness can be measured, and the board will determine the effectiveness of the scheme.

"You can measure it at the board level by getting the board to assess whether, from their perspective, the process and information we provide is allowing them to be more strategic and to make better-informed decisions," he said. "You do that by having them evaluate the process on a regular basis, and if they are better able to make strategic decisions, it is of benefit to the institution."

Stack said faculty and staff already spend time developing budgets and plans of action and that the new four-year-plan strategy simply provides a framework for processes already underway.

He added that the exercise of plotting a department's or unit's activities helps faculty and staff stick to their core functions, or decide to change the way they do things.

"What I am hearing is that this is really causing units to re-think the fundamental job they are in and to ask the fundamental questions that need to be asked. Doing that every four years is a way to ensure you are in fact doing the right thing and providing value in whatever service you provide."

The board's executive planning committee will look at plans between the end of September and the beginning of December. More information on the planning process is available at <http://www.ualberta.ca/resourceplanning>. ■

## Correction

An article in the May 4, 2001 edition of Folio contained errors. Headlined *The 29 per cent solution*, the article dealt with University of Alberta plans to outsource custodial responsibilities. The article incorrectly identified NASA steward Rosi Johnson as Josi Johnson. Furthermore, the article incorrectly stated that Johnson earns \$22 per hour. In fact, Johnson earns \$12 per hour, a wage that includes a \$1 per hour night differential.

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# Working small, thinking big

*The University of Alberta wants to be Canada's leader in nanotechnology*

By Terese Brasen

"The best way to manipulate them is to speak to themæone on one," says the University of Alberta's Dr. Michael Brett, talking about atoms and molecules. Brett is describing nanotechnology, a scientific breakthrough that's causing a stir inside and outside universities.

Nano is a mathematical term that means 10 to power of minus nine. Can't remember high school math? Think about one hair, then think smaller. How small? To demonstrate the scale researchers are working at, technicians have created an extremely small version of the U of A crest. It is so small that 20,000 of them would fit in the period at the end of this sentence.

Nanotechnology is causing a stir because it represents a giant technological step forward. Our ancestors discovered fire and invented the wheel. The 20th century brought us cars, airplanes and computers. Now we have nanotechnologyæthe ability to work small, rearranging atoms and molecules to create new products and new cures.

Dr. Chris Backhouse is an engineer working with medical researchers to develop a diagnostic tool that could perform tests on a single cell—a lab on a chip. The technology already exists at the macroscopic level, where oncologists look at cancer cells to find patterns and genetic abnormalities. In her Cross Cancer Institute lab, the University of Alberta oncologist Dr. Linda Pilarski is using macroscopic technology to understand and treat multiple myeloma, a form of bone cancer that has long eluded a cure.

"We like to think of cancers as a lump," she say. "But the lump is actually many cells, some much more aggressive than others." Pilarski compares cancer cells to bacteria, which continually mutate and become drug resistant. "A few cells escape whatever the clinicians are giving. Those cells take over and suddenly you have a cancer that doesn't respond to the treatment any more."

Backhouse had heard of Pilarski's work. "He sent me an e-mail and said he noticed I worked with single cells and was I interested [in collaborating]. So we got together in the sunroom for tea, and we have been drinking tea and talking about this ever since."

In the U of A's MicroFab lab, Backhouse and his partners are collaborating with local companies to develop a prototype of a diagnostic tool that can take Pilarski's work to the molecular level. "With Chris's technology," says Pilarski, "it is possible to do lab tests that are automated, standardized and cheap. Five dollars a test, that's what Chris thinks. While the patient is sitting there in the doctor's office, you can do a complex genetic test or series of tests in real time with maybe a blood sample or maybe a needle biopsy of a breast lump.

"You can actually look at individual cells and say, for example, 'There are some really aggressive cells here. I think we ought to treat you very aggressively right at the beginning.' " Pilarski says the microchip technology could apply to other diseases. "This could revolutionize health care. Now you can do things that might help clinicians treat and monitor diseases. You could get results quickly, and it wouldn't bankrupt the health-care system."

The poet Robert Frost coined the phrase, "Good fences make good neighbours." Traditionally, scientists have followed Frost's lead and kept their disciplines fenced off from neighbouring disciplines. Physics didn't work with biology. And biology didn't work with engineering. Back in 1959, Nobel Prize winner Dr. Richard Feynman suggested biologists should ask physicists to "make the electron microscope 100 times better." Feynman predicted that scientific research would converge at the nanoscale or, as he put it, meet "at the bottom." Physicists made the electron microscope 100,000 times better, and scientific research began to converge.

The U of A's MicroFab lab started when the university's Centre for Nanoscale Physics began collaborating with Civil and Electrical Engineering and Electrical and Computer Engineering. "We got together to form this facility, get funding for it and make it work," says Brett. "That brought us together and kept us together. Here we form a very advantageous liaison between physics, electrical engineering, chemistry and medicine."

The MicroFab lab is an open access facility, which means it operates like a fitness centre. Pay your entrance fee, take the basic training and you're free to use the space and the equipment. During the last two years, 178 different researchers have used the labæresearchers from 11 different companies, 49 research groups and six Canadian universities.

Nanotechnology has sparked a lot of dreams. "Imagine being able to cure cancer by drinking a medicine stirred into your favourite fruit juice," Gayle Pergamit and Chris Peterson wrote in a 1993 feature article published by the Foresight Institute. "Imagine a supercomputer no bigger than a human cell. Imagine a four-person, surface-to-orbit spacecraft no larger or more expensive than the family car. These are just a few products expected from nanotechnology."

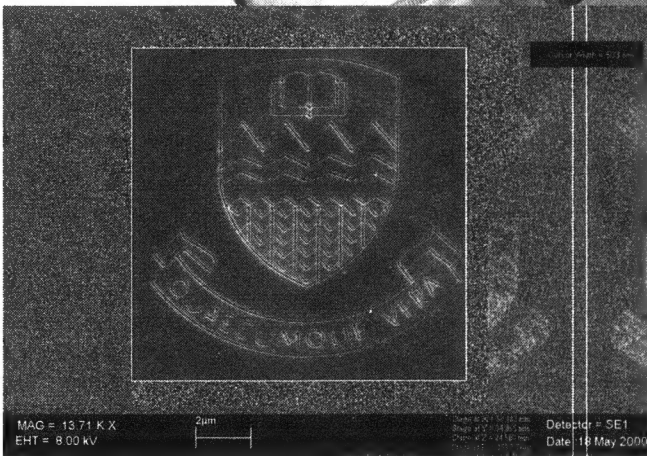
While some nano enthusiasts expect this new technology to free us from pain and bring eternal life, the scientific community is thinking more practically: More effective and affordable medical treatments, stronger materials; smaller, faster computers. "Don't mention the word Star Trek or I will shoot you," laughs Brett. "There are many practical ways nanotechnology can help. We are making little gizmos that have functionality and can be very powerful and very useful but I want to be careful about nano sci-fi stuff."

Brett's group has invented a technique to nano engineer thin film structuresævery thin materials fundamental to high technology, including magnetic storage, integrated circuits, optical components, coatings on potato chip wrappers, and the shiny anti-counterfeit coatings on \$20 bills.

The idea started about eight years ago when Brett was trying to understand and improve micro-electronic structures



Richard Siemens



Researchers work at a microscopic scale at the University of Alberta MicroFab lab. The lines used to make this version of the university crest are between 50 and 100 atoms wide — 20,000 of them would fit in the period at the end of this sentence.

Economic Development Edmonton, the National Research Council and the University of Alberta have been lobbying for a National Research Council (NRC) nano centre in Edmonton. The centre would become the country's Integrated Nano Systems Institute. John Martin, managing director of site location with the EDE's Research Park, says, "This emerging cluster would directly employ, independent of NRC or the university, several hundred knowledge workers. It would catalyze a profound structural change in the region that might otherwise take longer to achieve."

Edmonton's nanotech capabilities started when Brett received joint funding through the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and Micralyne Inc. The fundingæthe Micralyne/NSERC Industrial Research Chairæallowed the university to create the MicroFab lab. And the lab is one of the reasons an Integrated Nano Systems Institute would feel at home in Edmonton. Incidentally, Micralyne Inc. is a university spin-off company that specializes in the design and fabrication of micromachined glass, silicon and thin film components. And the U of A is expanding its current MicroFab lab to a sprawling 10,000 sq. ft., in the new Electrical Computer Engineering Research Facility, currently under construction.

But support for the field seems to be missing from the federal government. Pilarski, who was turned down by Canadian funding agencies, received American funds from the National

could be engineered on the nanometre scale. A geophysics student, Kevin Robbie, was looking for a fourth-year undergraduate project, and Brett suggested his nano engineering idea.

"I was thinking it was kind of a silly idea," says Brett. "But, as a project, it would be educational. Robbie made it work and made the first engineered structure at that scale."

One of Brett's students is now experimenting with light or optical computers. The integrated circuits in Pentium chips move electrons around. Thin film technology allows us to manipulate photons instead of electrons. "It is possible," says Brett, "that instead of moving electrons around to perform a computing function, we can move light or what light is made ofæphotons. Like Star Trek. "

Nanotechnology is raising eyebrows in the business community because new technologies can transform a city or region into an economic hot spot. That's the lesson learned from California where Stanford spun-off more than 350 high-tech companies, starting with Hewlett Packard. Economic Development Edmonton estimates that, in 2002, the world market for microsystems devices will be valued at anywhere from \$8 to \$34 billion.



# message from the • president

## Confidence a necessary quality

By Dr. Rod Fraiser

Over the past six months I have explored the list of desired outcomes that the University of Alberta considers crucial to the preparation of our undergraduate students: critical thinking skills, communication skills, independent judgement, agility to learn, and unleashing creative/entrepreneurial talents. As a finale to this series, I turn now to consider the development of the whole person.

While the University of Alberta's role for our students is largely academic in nature, it does not, nor should it, end there. The classroom knowledge that our students take away from their time here is not enough in and of itself to garner success in the "real" world. As an institution with a goal to educate the leaders of tomorrow, we must recognize that, beyond technical knowledge, leaders also require the confidence to encounter and take on the world.

The French have a phrase that epitomizes this desirable brand of confidence: "Je suis bien dans ma peau" – I am comfortable in my skin. But how do we assist

our students in gaining the attributes necessary to instill a healthy dose of confidence?

Our university offers a plethora of opportunities for our students to become comfortable with themselves outside the strictly academic arena. Mike Mahon, dean of physical education and recreation, notes that the University of Alberta "leads the nation with the highest number of Academic All-Canadians over the history of the award." This award "recognizes athletes who combine participation in inter-collegiate sport with high academic standing. In many ways, this award is one of the best illustrations of the extent to which the U of A contributes to the overall quality of life of students."

Numerous students are seemingly taking advantage of Campus Recreation programs as well. This year the highest level of participation was recorded, with more than 26,000 registrations. Another notable achievement is our student clubs, which number over 250, and again provide our students with opportunities to get

involved, and hone leadership qualities such as communication and teamwork skills.

Our alumni president, Bruce Bentley, believes these skills are essential for our future leaders. As someone who has looked through many resumes, he reminds us that employers "look beyond the 'technical' skills and see what else the person has done in their life. People are always impressed by high marks and academic awards but what people will want to talk about are the things that they do for 'free' or for 'fun'."

Aristotle once wrote: "The real test then of a people's education is not so much the way they work or fight, but the way they use their leisure." Our students are not one-dimensional people who are only interested in their specific disciplines. Instead they are vibrant, multi-talented individuals. Perhaps one of the best examples of this is our mixed chorus, in which students across all disciplines, from the hard sciences to fine arts, join together to produce glorious musical contributions.



For some students this acts as a release from the stress of their academic undertakings. For others, this is an opportunity to broaden their narrowly focussed programs, and find a different sense of satisfaction and fulfillment.

As graduation nears, Students' Union Past-President Leslie Church is appreciative of the university's role in providing her with the ability to customize her degree through participation in debate and political groups, and student governance. "If my professors have helped me learn about the way the world is up until this moment," she says, "the university has inspired me to get involved and make some first attempts at shaping the world in the way it *should* be."

Remembering the words of the University of Alberta's first president, H.M. Tory, "The uplifting of the whole people shall be its final goal." What better way for the University of Alberta to realize his vision than by providing our students with a multitude of opportunities to assist their development into leaders of tomorrow. ■

## Public policy misses target on care givers

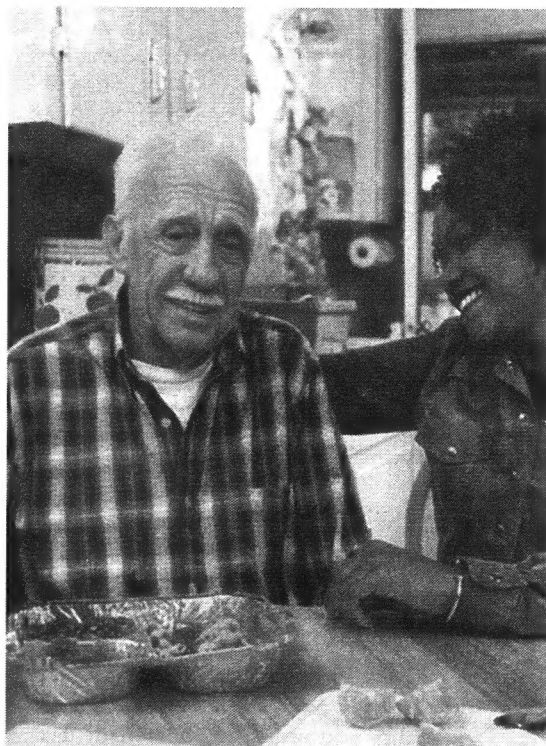
*Study finds care givers often end up at economic disadvantage*

By Phoebe Dey

Informal care givers of frail seniors often don't benefit from public policy set out in Canada, but instead face an economic burden of their own says a new study released by researchers at the University of Alberta.

The Status of Women Canada (SWC) released a study written by Dr. Norah Keating, Jacquie Eales and Dr. Janet Fast, all from the U of A's Department of Human Ecology on how public policy in Canada helps, or doesn't help, family and friends – especially women – who care for frail seniors.

The researchers identified three profiles of different types of informal care givers that currently exist: adult children with young children of their own, adult children without dependent children and spousal care givers. They also chose three regions across the country—Capital Regional District of British Columbia, Niagara Region of Ontario and rural Cape Breton region of Nova Scotia—to analyze federal, provincial and regional policies dealing with health, income security and labour. They then applied public policies to different care-giving scenarios in each region.



Friends and relatives provide as much as 80 per cent of all care for frail seniors. But a new study suggests those care givers receive little support themselves.

"What we found is that these policies have the potential to affect the consequences of informal care giving," said Eales, a research associate in the department. "But a lot of these policies that affect care givers are not aimed at care givers directly. The unintended impacts of taking care of someone may affect many things."

For example, caring for someone may impact the care giver's employment status. Care givers list tardiness, absenteeism, working fewer hours and even exiting the labour force to fulfill care-giving responsibilities as consequences of looking after someone. Not only is current income influenced, but future income is as well because a pension can also be affected, said Eales. Yet employment-related costs are the least likely to be addressed by existing policies, programs and services, say the authors.

"One of the things that surprised me the most was the care-giver tax credit, which is specifically intended to recognize care giv-

ing and offer tax relief," said Eales. "But we found that the criteria doesn't apply to many care givers. Fewer than six per cent of care givers met the relationship and proximity criteria. For example, you have to be living with the person, but spouses don't qualify. So a whole group of people is left out."

The group that is least well-served by existing policy instruments are women who are employed, who have concurrent child-care responsibilities, and who live at a moderate distance from the person they provide care for, says the study.

"Men are often in higher-paying jobs and in positions that are more accommodating and flexible when it comes to taking time off," said Eales, adding that women constitute the majority of elder-care providers. "Women are also more likely than men to forfeit employment opportunities in order to fulfill care responsibilities. But non-kin are also poorly served. There are a lot of gaps that should be addressed."

The study—which was funded by SWC's policy research fund—also includes recommendations about policy reform. ■

## Nanotechnology

Continued from page 3

Institutes of Health in the U.S. "The head of the U.S. National Cancer Institute has frequently said one of his goals is to develop technology so you could diagnose and treat someone on Mars," says Pilarski, explaining why the American government is willing to support her research. "These things Chris is developing are ideal for that. It is exactly what you could do, treat someone on Mars."

Some Canadians believe the federal government should subsidize national

hockey teams. Others are vehemently opposed. No such debate circles around nanotechnology. Like diamond mining, nanotechnology can only get off the ground when there is a substantial front-end investment, and stakeholders argue that the federal government clearly has a role to play.

The NRC has research facilities in every Canadian province except Prince Edward Island and Alberta. Last month Justice Minister Anne McLellan told

reporters that nanotechnology "is one of the fundamental technologies, one of the most important technologies of the future, and I think it would be great if this NRC facility were established at the University of Alberta."

Meanwhile, Brett and his colleagues are scanning newspapers, hoping for promises of federal support. "We have missed so many opportunities," says Brett. "The micro electronics revolution completely missed Canada. Yes, we can buy

chips. Yes, some people argue we have expertise but we don't have any manufacturing facilities. We missed it entirely.

"And the Genomics revolution, the same thing. None of the start-ups were in Canada. I don't want to miss this revolution. Because we are well placed to take advantage of it. We have enough small companies, expertise, entrepreneurs and basic facilities to make a go of it. But we need the organized effort of a national lab to carry it forward." ■



## Latinos don't need free trade protesters

*If you want to help, promote free trade and expanded social assistance*

By William Cartier

When evaluating the purpose and outcomes of the most recent Summit of the Americas, we would do well to distinguish between Canadian views, based on particularly Canadian interests, and Latin American views, based on Latin American interests. In each country the definition of these differing viewpoints is a political process, involving government agencies, political parties, interest groups, research institutes, citizens' organizations, communications media, etc. It's a messy process.

From a Latin American perspective, there are some aspects of the debate and the protests in Quebec which make it especially messy. For some reason, there was a vocal group of Canadian citizens' organizations which pretended to speak for Latin Americans despite the presence of representatives of legitimately constituted democratic governments from almost all countries of the region. The demonstrators' implicit (and sometimes explicit) rationale for assuming this representative role is that Latin American governments are essentially undemocratic and their deci-

sions are therefore unrepresentative of genuine public interest.

On the general issue of democracy, Canadian activists should be aware that except for Cuba, there are today no out-and-out cases of dictatorship in Latin America. Despite recent challenges to constitutional rule in Paraguay, Ecuador, and Peru, most countries have continued on a democratic path. Today there are few formal constraints to organization and participation. According to Latinobarometro polls in 17 countries of the region, about 60 per cent of the population considers democracy "the best form of government." Yet, there are criticisms. Clearly, Latin America faces a challenge of building broader support for institutions of democratic governance. But in this sense it is no different from the developed countries, which have been facing similar critiques of democratic governance.

However, it would be a mistake to conflate criticisms of democratic processes with a particular ideological orientation. While criticizing the failings of democratic institutions, Latin Americans don't appear

to be moving towards the political left. Indeed, as in other regions of the world, during the last decade, in most Latin American countries governments have tended to be increasingly middle-of-the-road, and not too ideological. They have tended to favour economic liberalization, including free trade. Meanwhile, the electoral fortunes of left and populist parties, which have been the main opponents to free trade policies, have waned in almost all countries of the region, with the notable exceptions of Peru and Venezuela.

Thus, I would argue that despite the critical attitudes towards democratic processes, the trend towards economic liberalization cannot be seen as the result of anti-democratic political processes, but rather it accurately reflects public opinion. Again, citing the most recent Latinobarometro polls in 17 countries, about 80 per cent of adults support free trade policies. While the democratic process in this region suffers from many flaws, on the question of free trade the position of Latin American governments in Quebec reflected an overwhelming con-

sensus among the region's citizenry. In this sense, I would guess that the majority of Latin American citizens would not feel represented by the Canadian activists who were protesting in Quebec.

A final suggestion: Economic research has shown that for free trade policies to have a more positive impact on equity we need, among other things, more effective policies in education, health and other "human capital" investments. In seeking to represent poor and middle-income countries from Latin America, Canadian activists would be better off promoting a more vigorous international development policy, with an eye to increasing Canadian International Development Agency budgets for social programs and projects in Latin America. Combined with free trade, it would be a powerful strategy for reducing poverty, increasing equity and promoting democracy.

(William Cartier is deputy director of the Corona Foundation, a grant-making foundation dedicated to public policy research in Colombia. He researches and writes on social policy in Colombia and Latin America.) ■

## folio letters to the editor

### Side-stepping FOIP? No, that's illegal too.

A letter published in your May 4th edition carried advice that could lead your readers to contravene an important law that governs us all. It would be a disservice to your readers to let that letter stand unchallenged.

Professor Bentley's letter (*Here's one way to sidestep privacy commissioner's ruling*, Folio May 4) laments the ruling that students have a right to see their own personal information in letters of reference written for entry to academic programs. He and others may have been misled by Folio's unfortunate wording in the previous week's edition, where the initial Folio story carried the teaser "Prying Eyes" and was accompanied by an image of a student leafing through a file cabinet's contents. Folio's imagery cast the exercise of the legal right to access as a shady, maybe even shameful, act on the part of students.

It was disappointing to see an eminent member of the academic community advance the view that the law could be circumvented. The professor's suggestion that one person can bind another to a promise not to exercise a statutory right is seriously misguided. To allow such undertakings in a free and democratic society would be to give those persons with institutional or economic advantage the ability to reduce the rights enjoyed by those less advantaged. Our neighbours to the south fought a civil war on that point.

The professor is not the first voice from the University of Alberta to suggest that the law can be circumvented through the application of a waiver requirement. The university itself briefly examined and quickly discarded that approach just after it had heard conclusively from the Legislative Assembly of Alberta in 1999 that the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act would not allow for its historical policy of shielding letter-of-reference information from the student

being discussed. Presumably the university recognized then that a person in a position of authority cannot even suggest that a citizen sign away a statutory right. To request compliance with a waiver-for-letter procedure would be contrary to the law. To hold a citizen to this coerced promise, or to take sanctions against a citizen for breaking such a promise, would be to perpetuate an illegitimate act.

All individuals—students, professors, administrators or members of the wider public—have the indisputable legal right to see the personal information about themselves that is generated or held by Alberta's public bodies and their officials. The University of Alberta is a public body under the law. Any attempt by a public body or its officials to institute so prejudicial a practice as that suggested in the professor's letter would be investigated as a possible breach of the Act. An administrative action by the university, or a review by this office, under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, would have to deny the validity and effect of any undertaking that compromises the access and privacy rights of Albertans.

I urge those seeking clever ways around the law to emulate their U of A colleagues who do honour the human rights of students by dealing with requests for reference letters through forthright, accountable communication. That wise message too was in the professor's letter.

The full text of the Commissioner's Order 2000-029 can be found at [www.oipc.ab.ca](http://www.oipc.ab.ca). I recommend to your readers that they consult the university's FOIP officials or legal counsel before attempting the "relatively easy way to cope with the new regulations" laid out in the professor's letter.

**John Ennis, Portfolio Officer  
Office of the Information and Privacy  
Commissioner, Edmonton, AB.**

### Defence of Canadian Studies rings hollow

The comments by Professors Brodie and Williamson on the Canadian studies issue present some interesting and ingenious defences of the status quo. I remain unconvinced. Professor Williamson blames the failure of Canadian studies to attract students on lack of administrative support during the hard times of the 1990s. Canadian studies certainly suffered cuts in this area and was forced to seek shelter in the political science department. But then a good many other programs, disciplinary and interdisciplinary, were also forced into mergers and no department in the Faculty of Arts had adequate administrative support over that period.

Professor Brodie's guest column shows what you can do with ratios and percentages if the numbers are small enough. There were 130 half-course registrations in all Canadian studies courses in the fall term 2000-2001 and 113 in the winter term. I'm just selfish enough to point out that I personally taught more students than that in the fall term this year. If Professor Brodie really believes that 2.6 faculty is not an extravagant allocation of resources for Canadian studies, no doubt she will be quick to offer to re-allocate those positions to Canadian studies from other areas within political science.

The arguments put forward that do not have to do with student numbers are rather murky but, I think, come down to three. The first is that without an interdisciplinary program, research will be constrained by disciplinary boundaries. I would be very interested to hear of a single example of interdisciplinary research on Canada being prevented by the institutional structure of the Faculty of Arts. The second is that without a Canadian studies program we will risk missing out on the money Ottawa hands out for travel to Canadian studies conferences in places more interesting than Canada, such as the

one this spring on the Italian Riviera, and on federal money to bring in visitors from outside.

I very much doubt that we will be blacklisted by the feds and, in any case, this strikes me as a rather feeble and self-serving rationale for an academic program. Finally, of course, there is the claim that we should be embarrassed to concern ourselves with anything as crass as numbers; passion is what really counts. I don't question the passionate commitment of the Canadian studies faculty, I don't question the passion of the two honours students in the program or of the 11 Canadian studies majors.

I am even willing to grant a large measure of enthusiasm to the nine minors registered in the program. But when I am confronted daily by many more students who are passionately interested in history, it turns out to be about numbers after all.

**Rod Macleod  
History and Classics**

## folio letters to the editor

Folio welcomes letters to the editor. Send your thoughts and opinions via e-mail to [richard.cairney@ualberta.ca](mailto:richard.cairney@ualberta.ca), fax at 492-2997, or by mail to Folio, Office of Public Affairs, 400 Athabasca Hall, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2E8. Letters may be edited for grammar, style, accuracy and length.



# Engineering cleans up at provincial awards

*Faculty recognized as a leader in the profession*

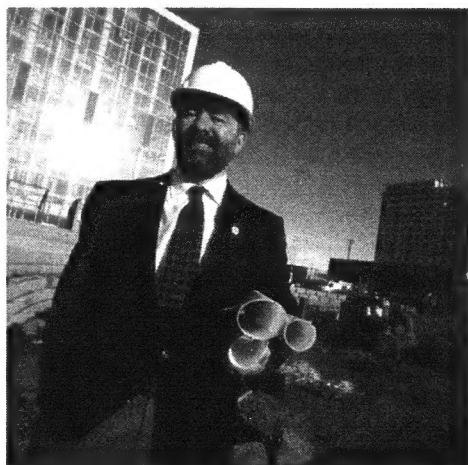
By Geoff McMaster

It was almost a clean sweep. In its best showing ever, the University of Alberta's Faculty of Engineering recently took five of nine awards handed out by the Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta (APEGGA). And if you count alumni and those who have made major contributions to award-winning projects, that number rises to eight.

"Normally we might receive one or two awards on an annual basis," said Dean of Engineering David Lynch, winner of APEGGA's Centennial Leadership Award, the association's highest honour. "This year receiving five, and almost all the awards the university could potentially be eligible for, is extremely nice to see... And given that it was held in Calgary (in late April), I was very pleased to see such a strong U of A representation," he said.

There are 30,000 engineers working in the Alberta industry, all of them eligible for these awards.

Considering the categories in which the U of A shone, added Lynch—areas such as excellence in education, technical merit, early achievement, and technology and commercialization—"by and large they summarize the overall mission of the



Faculty of Engineering Dean David Lynch was honoured for his contributions to his profession and for leadership during the faculty's most significant period of growth.

Faculty of Engineering. It's quite remarkable to see we've covered every one of the key areas."

Lynch was honoured for spearheading the largest expansion of programs, staff and facilities in the faculty's history and for his role in helping to resolve a national dispute between engineering faculties and departments of computing science over the use of the term "software engineering" in their academic programming.

The four other engineering faculty members to receive awards are:

Dr. Janet Elliott—Early Accomplishment Award for "exceptional achievement in the early years of a professional career." In just four years Elliott has already attracted international attention for her research on statistical rate theory and other non-equilibrium thermodynamics theory.

Dr. Gary Faulkner—Excellence in Education Award for "exemplary contributions to teaching and learning." Faulkner has been widely recognized for using a variety of teaching techniques, such as including physical demonstrations, computer simulations and practical examples, to inspire his students.

Dr. Farouq Ali—Frank Spragins Technical Service Award for "recognized integrity, expertise and outstanding accomplishments." Ali has conducted innovative research in petroleum engineering resulting in important advances in

heavy oil recovery techniques. Ali retired from the U of A in 1999.

Dr. Ken Fyfe and Kip Fyfe—the Project Achievement Award for "substantial technological progress and betterment of society." The brothers created Dynastream Innovations, a spin-off company that developed "SpeedMax," a speedometer/odometer for runners and walkers recently sold to Nike.

U of A alumna (M.Sc. '88) and APEGGA past president Sue Evison received an honorary Life Membership "for eminent service allied with the profession," and alumnus Robert Brawn (B.Sc. '58) received the Community Service Award for "out-

standing contributions to society." The Edmonton Co-Composting Facility, which has benefited from the contributions and advice of U of A engineering faculty members, was also honoured with an Environmental Excellence Award. The facility uses state-of-the-art engineering to convert municipal waste into compost. ■

"Normally we might receive one or two awards on an annual basis. This year receiving five, and almost all the awards the university could potentially be eligible for, is extremely nice to see... And given that it was held in Calgary (in late April), I was very pleased to see such a strong U of A representation."

—Dean of Engineering David Lynch

## Junior Achievement recognizes Chancellor's achievements

*John Ferguson keeps good company in business hall of fame*

By Geoff McMaster

University of Alberta Chancellor John Ferguson can now add another honour to his long list of accolades. He was recently inducted into the Alberta Business Hall of Fame by Junior Achievement of Northern Alberta and NWT.

"Most of all I'm honoured to be recognized for my past achievements by an organization that looks to the future," Ferguson told about 900 members of the local business community who gathered for the awards ceremony. "Soon the country will be in the hands of today's junior achievers."

Ferguson attributed his success to the people he's surrounded himself with over

the years, from the successful students he chose to "hang out" with in high school to the board members he elected to help run his company, Princeton Developments. "I knew I had to surround myself with winners from whom I could learn," he explained.

He also alluded to the "biggest influence of all" in his career, his wife Bunny. "Thirty-five years ago I persuaded Bunny to be my wife," he said. "She's the main reason I'm at the

podium today."

Ferguson is responsible for founding Princeton Developments which, since its inception in 1975, has become one of the most successful real estate development firms in the country and the premier development company in Northern Canada. He is also the board chair of TransAlta Corp. and serves on the boards of a number of firms including the Royal Bank of Canada and Suncor Energy.

Between 1994 and 1997, Ferguson

"Thirty-five years ago I persuaded Bunny to be my wife. She's the main reason I'm at the podium today."

—University of Alberta Chancellor John Ferguson

served as chair of the U of A's Board of Governors and was last year installed as the university's chancellor. "He exemplifies the kind of leader of tomorrow our entire university is driven to generate for each of our students," said President Rod Fraser.

Brian MacNeill, retired CEO of Enbridge, Inc. and co-chair of the U of A's last major fundraising campaign, was also inducted Wednesday. The Alberta Business Hall of Fame was established by Junior Achievement, a non-profit organization that supports young entrepreneurs, in 1980 to pay tribute to outstanding achievement in free enterprise. ■

## KidSport Camp opens doors for kids

*Program offers new horizons to youths*

By David Beharry

"Wow, this place is way cool!" That was the response from a Grade 9 student named Binh who, along with more than 200 students from Spruce Avenue and St. Basil's Junior High Schools, was attending the second annual U of A KidSport Camp Day 2001.

The students took part in various sport camps including basketball, volleyball, soccer and swimming. Panda and Golden Bear athletes who lead the camps focus on teaching the fundamentals and the fun aspects of sport. "It's a way of giving back something to the kids," said first-time volunteer and U of A graduate Calinda Reschny. "We try to provide positive role models and share our love and knowledge of sport."

KidSport is a non-profit organization that raises money to pay the sport camp registration fees for economically disadvantaged kids.

"One hundred per cent of the funds we raise go to this purpose, and last year

we helped more than 1,000 kids," said Ryan Smith, chair of KidSport. Jayna Butler, a teacher at Spruce Avenue, believes the camps are "an excellent opportunity for the kids to have interaction with positive role models and see what other kids can do."

And it worked. "I played volleyball this morning and this afternoon I'm going swimming," said Vanessa, a Grade 7 student. "This place is so big, do you know they have two pools here? Which one do I go to?" Dalton, a Grade 7 student at St. Basil's was similarly impressed. "It's nice to be here—this place is really big," he said. "I hope I can come here after high school... I'd like to be an engineer or maybe an architect."

That kind of remark is music to the ears of Mike Steele, a physical education instructor from Spruce Avenue. "It's a really good way for the kids to see the university and widen their horizons," he said.

The day was filled with activities and

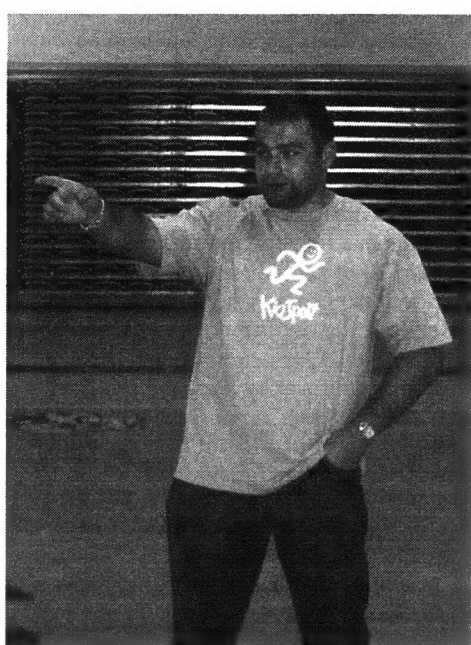
the kids were able to select in advance which camps they wish to attend. Anita from St. Basil's said: "it's nice to meet the athletes. They are really helpful, and I learned the proper way to kick a soccer ball."

"At KidSport, we believe sports promote discipline, teamwork, sportsmanship, exercise and fun," said Smith. "There are also added benefits—when kids are playing sports, they are less likely to get into trouble."

And they're more likely to work up an appetite. "Lunch was great—We had pizza," said Randall, a Grade 8 student at Spruce Avenue.

Smith said that since the invited students are at an age at which they're starting to make decisions for themselves, receiving attention and encouragement from athletes, even for one day, may have a real positive affect on them.

And if you're wondering, with a little help Vanessa found the right pool. ■



Carlo Panero, a University of Alberta wrestler, football player and med student, coaches youngsters at the second annual KidSport Camp Day.



# Jacobson beats personal best time, makes Team Canada

*Marathon runner will compete at World's in August*

By Geoff McMaster

It's now official—Sandy Jacobson is going to the World's.

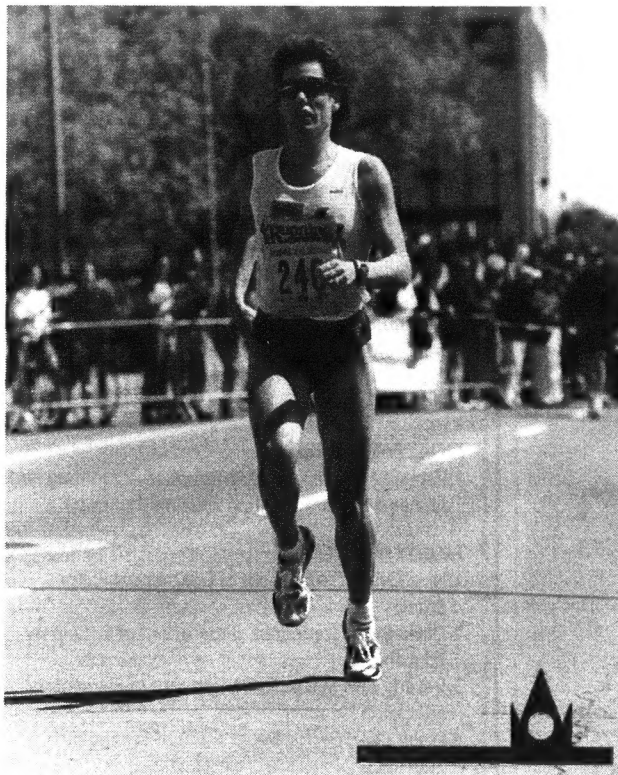
The marathon runner and University of Alberta employee secured a place on the Canadian team Sunday at the National Capital Marathon in Ottawa. She beat her personal best time by 50 seconds, running 26.2 miles in a time of 2:38:27.9, good enough to give her the fourth-best time among the five Canadian women who have qualified to run in the marathon at the World Championships in Athletics in August. She is the first Edmonton athlete to qualify for Team Canada.

"It hasn't really set in yet, but it feels wonderful to come back with such good news," said Jacobson, who was back at her desk Monday in the Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutritional Science.

"In the last couple of months it's all come together, and it's been worth it. It's wonderful to be able to come back with good news for the university, for Edmontonians and for anybody that's helped out and supported me."

Sunday's race was a make-or-break situation for Jacobson. She had set her sights on last month's Boston Marathon but fell ill just before the race and so wasn't at her strongest.

"I only ran about 20 miles and ended up pulling out. So I phoned the university to see if I could get a two-week extension,



University of Alberta staff member Sandy Jacobson will compete for Canada this summer.

knowing I had Ottawa May 13. They said, 'No problem, Sandy, take as much time as you need.' "

Then, three weeks ago, Jacobson was

bumped to the sixth spot—out of contention for the Aug. 3-12 event—by a runner who beat her best time of 2:39:17. And so it all came down to Sunday, but Jacobson refused to let the pressure rattle her. She knew what she had to do and was certain she could pull it off.

"The type of race I had to run yesterday was to go out and run a consistent pace...I couldn't go too hard or save it till the end," she said. "I went in with confidence, knowing the training was there. It was just a matter of being able to concentrate for the whole race. I knew I could if I just pulled out all the stops and put it together."

One runner, Danuta Bartoszek of Mississauga, overtook Jacobson in the final two kilometres of the race, going for the third-place spot on the team. But instead of being drawn into a sprint, Jacobson maintained her pace, focusing on the goal she'd set for herself.

"I'd given it all I had and didn't have

any room for risk factor. [Bartoszek] passed me and I thought, 'don't even let it distract you—you're out there to run your race. It's all coming together, just don't screw up.' "

She's now going to take a well-deserved rest, training "quietly" for only about 20 minutes each day. In a week or so she'll begin planning her training regimen for the World's. "Probably two months is what I'll need to put together proper training."

It's been a long, grueling road for Jacobson, who has been training hard since Edmonton won the bid for the World's in 1998. Last January she took a leave of absence from the university to attend a three-month training camp for elite runners in California. The program is run by Dr. Gabriele Rosa, the renowned marathon coach who has operated a similar camp in Kenya, which has produced some of the best runners in the world.

"The training camp gave me a lot of strength—the type of training, the volume and the intensity." She said it was different from other programs in that it emphasizes training rigorously up to the last day before a big race, rather than scaling back or "tapering" in the weeks prior to rest the body.

"But I really believe it gave me extra strength and confidence. It was certainly the secret weapon I needed to put this together." ■

## Dust off your runners – Corporate Challenge is calling

*University prepares to defend honour, go for gold*

By Geoff McMaster

It's time to lay it on the line for the green and gold. This year's Corporate Challenge is fast approaching, and according to organizers, the University of Alberta contingent still has room for more participants.

The challenge, which runs from May 28 to June 6, involves 21 events, from badminton to mountain bike racing to tug-of-war. The events are open to any employee of the university who is not a professional athlete (or varsity athlete within the last two years) in their chosen event. And this year the university has its sights set on the championship, says Barb Hepperle, who organized last year's successful second-place team.

Despite losing the gold to the Edmonton Police Service, last year's performance was in fact the university's best ever. The U of A won gold medals in squash and mountain biking, four silvers in race walking, orienteering, table tennis and the five-mile run and a bronze in badminton, out of 21 events. We also had two individual winners, John Younk in mountain biking (four minutes ahead of his nearest competitor) and Jeff Hoyem of biological sciences in the race walk. Only the EPS managed to do better.

U of A mountain biking captain Annie Schroeder has high hopes for a repeat performance in her event. "We're going to win," she says without hesitation. "But

you have to remember, it's all for fun. People are definitely competitive, but the point of Corporate Challenge is for all kinds of people at all levels to come out. That's the beauty of it...you don't have to be a serious racer."

So do we have a chance at upsetting the defending champions? "Well, we've got to get that power pull (tug-of-war) going," says Hepperle. "For the first time this year the university will be participating in the opening ceremonies of the power pull, and hopefully that will draw more people out."

The challenge was established in 1992 to provide a forum for local businesses to promote health and wellness, employee

interaction, pride and morale. It has grown to include 160 companies and 17,000 athletes.

This year two new events have been added, a scavenger hunt and a track event, to replace squash and soccer which were cancelled for lack of sufficient interest. Hepperle says one of the biggest hurdles in the Corporate Challenge is drawing enough female participants, because most teams have mixed gender requirements.

For more information, and to fill out an application form (deadline for submissions is May 25), check out the U of A's Corporate Challenge Web site at [www.ualberta.ca/CHALLENGE/](http://www.ualberta.ca/CHALLENGE/). ■

## Student designs triathlon legacy

*Designer will give world championships a memorable look*

By Phoebe Dey

It's not bad for a summer job. When thousands of athletes and spectators descend on Hawrelak Park and Edmonton's river valley for the 2001 ITU World Triathlon Championship this July, they will see the work of third-year industrial design student Mark Fewster.

Fewster will co-ordinate the event to give it a consistent, unique look, adding a bit of visual flair to the competition.

"He is breaking away from the Red Green approach, which is where you stick something together with duct tape and hope it works," said Rob Lederer, an industrial design professor in the Faculty of Arts. "This is something that takes more thought. The analogy is it's similar to a pie being baked—Mark is going to add the sprinkles and the topping. It's like when you go to a restaurant, it's the presentation that separates one good restaurant from another."

Sheila O'Kelly, the executive director of

the championships, contacted Fewster, who once ran triathlons and remains active in the Edmonton sporting community. He was asked to co-ordinate the look of the July 21-22 event, covering everything from signage around the food services area to the water stations along the course.

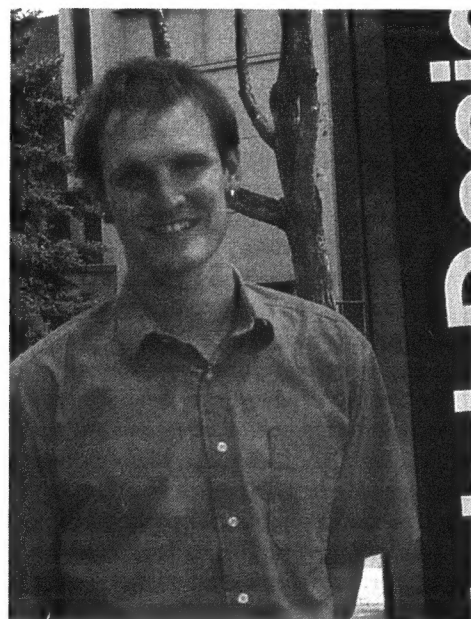
"It has just taken off and it grows daily—yesterday I was working on the championship's float for the Klondike Days parade," said Fewster. "I'm not doing any one single thing, I'm talking to everybody there to make sure it goes smoothly. My goal is to spread the look over the whole course, much like at a Grand Prix race, so no matter where you are on the course, you will feel a part of the excitement and drama."

Fewster's team includes landscape architects, workers from the City of Edmonton and the Edmonton World Triathlon committee. He currently has

pages of concept sketches and is awaiting budget approval before pieces, such as signage, fencing and any structure bearing the event's logo will be built and installed along the triathlon course.

"It's massive, but I'm really excited to be involved in such a large-scale design project," said Fewster. "When they first talked to me about it, they said, 'you know even if you do nothing, this event will still happen,' so that made me breathe a little easier. But I still want to make it a really memorable event."

Once his role as designer is complete, Fewster will put on his student hat and pass out questionnaires during the championships to gauge people's reaction to the site's look. "A lot of design doesn't get documented after the fact, so I want to see what I can learn from it and hopefully turn this into a research paper for class. It's just a great opportunity for me." ■



Mark Fewster is designing the visual look of the 2001 ITU World Triathlon Championship venue.



# Researchers find key to heart disorder

Could lead to treatments for sudden death in children

By Michael Robb

A team of researchers at the University of Alberta has discovered crucial information that may help clinicians develop important new therapies for treating complete heart block and sudden death in children.

The team has discovered that transgenic mice die of heart block and sudden death when a key protein, calreticulin—vital for the normal development of the heart—is abnormally expressed.

U of A biochemistry professor Dr. Marek Michalak said the finding is particularly exciting because the developments noted in the laboratory mice are remarkably similar to what cardiologists and pediatricians are seeing in children who suffer from the condition. The similarities are leading scientists to ask: Could this same thing that is happening to the mice be what's happening in children?

Co-researcher Dr. Murray Robertson of the U of A Department of Pediatrics said, "This an excellent correlate with the well-known clinical condition called congenital heart block."

Heart block disrupts the transmission of electrical signals between the upper and lower chambers of the heart. The worst form is called complete heart block, whereby the upper and lower parts of the heart beat separately. When this occurs, the lower part of the heart beats so slowly that it cannot keep blood flowing to the vital organs. Generally, if the disease causes a heart rate of less than 45 beats per minute, clinicians usually install a pacemaker. In extreme cases, heart transplants are necessary.

Michalak has shown in previous work that calreticulin is highly expressed in the developing heart but is down-regulated in late embryonic stages and is maintained at very low levels in mature hearts. The researchers developed a transgenic mouse model that continued to express the gene. "Essentially, we didn't allow the gene to be silenced," Michalak explained.

"Now we've got a pathway that is a potential etiology for the disease, and that opens up a whole realm of investigation," Robertson said. "We're going to be able to detect if someone carries the altered gene. The next step is to manipulate the genetic complement to potentially cure the disease."

Added Michalak, "We're talking now about developing pharmacological ways of silencing a gene."

An article about the research is published in the May issue of The Journal of Clinical Investigation.

The research was supported by the

Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research, the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Alberta, AstraZeneca and the Northern Alberta Children's Health Foundation. U of A cardiologist Katherine Kavanagh's electrocardiogram techniques were particularly crucial to the group's work.

## » quick » facts

Isolated congenital heart block (CHB) is a relatively uncommon yet life-threatening condition seen in fetuses, newborns, and older children.

Its incidence once thought to occur in approximately one in 20,000 live births appears to be at least twice as common. This is, in most part, due to improved methods of fetal diagnosis. In a selective population of patients, i.e. those born to mothers with immunologic connective tissue disorders such as lupus erythematosus, the incidence is significantly higher at approximately 5 out of every 100 babies born.

Approximately 60 percent of infants and children with CHB go on to require artificial pacemaker implantation. However, despite cardiac pacing, approximately 30 percent of these children die in the first year of life.

A significant number of these patients, despite successful implantation of a cardiac pacemaker and survival beyond age one year, develop severe heart failure requiring in many cases cardiac transplantation.

The cause of the disease is unknown, although there is a strong correlation between the presence of maternal antibodies in women with connective tissue disorders and the development of CHB. However, the mechanism remains unknown.

This disorder is characterized by a markedly lowered heart rate due to failure of conduction of the heart's intrinsic pacemaker signals to its pumping chambers or ventricles. Typically heart rates are one-half to one-third of the normal heart rate for age.

# laurels

## 2001 GRADUATE STUDENT TEACHING AWARDS RECIPIENTS

Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry, and Home Economics

1. Fay L Fletcher, Department of Human Ecology

## FACULTY OF ARTS

1. Paul Beach, Department of Philosophy
2. Carmela Bruni-Bossio, Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies
3. Robyn Fowler, Department of English
4. Jana Grekul, Department of Sociology
5. Andrea Hayes, Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies
6. Patricia Hughes-Fuller, Department of Comparative Literature, Religion, and Film/Media Studies
7. Julia Peters, Department of Linguistics
8. Irene Sywenky, Department of Comparative Literature, Religion, and Film/Media Studies

## FACULTY OF BUSINESS

1. Patricia A Robinson, Department of Accounting and Management Information Systems

## FACULTY OF EDUCATION

1. Nina Erfani, Department of Educational Policy Studies
2. David Bruce Jorgensen, Department of Secondary Education
3. Beverly Ann MacInnis, Department of Elementary Education
4. Loren Dee Spector, Department of Secondary Education

## FACULTY OF ENGINEERING

1. David Babowal, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
2. Cameron Franchuk, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering
3. Mark Haldane, Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering
4. Kristin Miller, Department of Mechanical Engineering
5. George Pfaff, Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering
6. Raymond Sung, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

7. Tim Weis, Department of Mechanical Engineering

## FACULTY OF NURSING

1. Patricia Ann Rakochey

## FACULTY OF PHARMACY AND PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES

1. Micheal S Guirguis

## FACULTY OF REHABILITATION MEDICINE

1. Jennifer Klein

## FACULTY OF SCIENCE

1. Tricia Akemi Abe, Department of Biological Sciences
2. Mohammed Al-Sayah, Department of Chemistry
3. Ayman Husein Ammoura, Department of Computing Science
4. John Karsten Anvik, Department of Computing Science
5. Elspeth M Barnes, Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences
6. Ian Blokland, Department of Physics
7. Michelle Louise Chambers, Department of Biological Sciences
8. Vania Clementino, Department of Biological Sciences
9. Megan R Conlon, Department of Biological Sciences
10. Jennifer Anne Duffy, Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences
11. Phoebe Jane Elliot, Department of Mathematical Sciences
12. Paul A Ferry, Department of Computing Science
13. Christopher Harrison, Department of Chemistry
14. Tobias Herman, Department of Physics
15. Daqing Hou, Department of Computing Science
16. Errin Keith Kimball, Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences
17. Yaqian Liu, Department of Chemistry
18. Nathaniel Martin, Department of Chemistry
19. Christopher Connell McCluskey, Department of Mathematical Sciences
20. Geetha Menon, Department of Physics
21. Todd Oliynyk, Department of Mathematical Sciences
22. Julie J Stoehr, Department of Biological Sciences
23. Colin Vitols, Department of Chemistry

For complete University of Alberta job listings visit:

[www.hrs.ualberta.ca/](http://www.hrs.ualberta.ca/)



## NOTICE MAY 28, 2001 GFC AGENDA

### AGENDA ITEMS INCLUDE:

Advisory selection committee composition: proposal from the Students' Union effective for the 2001/2002 academic year

Visiting Student Certificate Program (VSCP): recommendation of the GFC academic planning committee (APC)

Second Chance Program: proposal regarding students who have been required to withdraw: recommendation of the GFC academic planning committee (APC)

New Course-Based Master of Physical Therapy (MPT) Program to replace the current Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy (BScPT) Program: proposal from the faculties of graduate studies and research and rehabilitation medicine, and recommendation of the GFC academic planning committee (APC)

For further information on these and remaining items on the agenda, please view: [www.ualberta.ca/~unisecr/](http://www.ualberta.ca/~unisecr/)

The University of Alberta  
is accepting nominations for its



## Board of Governors' Award of Distinction

The Board of Governors' Award honors individuals or groups who have made exceptional contributions to link the University of Alberta with the municipal, provincial, national, and/or international community.

The criteria for the Board of Governors' Award of Distinction are:

- Promoting goodwill between the University of Alberta and the community through exceptional volunteer service, and
- Creating awareness of the University of Alberta with the community by bringing honor to, or enhancing the reputation of the University, and
- Furthering the aims of the University with integrity in creating partnerships (social, cultural, economic)

Further nomination and eligibility information may be obtained on the internet at [www.ualberta.ca/governors/distinction.htm](http://www.ualberta.ca/governors/distinction.htm) or via e-mail at [louise.shulko@ualberta.ca](mailto:louise.shulko@ualberta.ca) or by contacting:

Office of the Board of Governors  
3-31 University Hall, University of Alberta  
Edmonton, AB T6G 2J9  
Phone: 780-492-4954 Fax: 780-492-2726

Nomination deadline is June 30, 2001.



# events

## SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

### NAFTA CONFERENCE

May 24 and May 25, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The University of Alberta and University of California at San Diego are partners in the conference: NAFTA in the New Millennium. Scholars from Mexico, the US and Canada will discuss diverse topics such as the political economy of integration, subregional economies, public opinion, challenges of labour standards, environment, immigration, agriculture and transportation, and the relationship of NAFTA to the FTA and WTO. The conference is free and open to the public but registration is required. Please phone 492-2235 or email fcentres@ualberta.ca Location: Stollery Centre, School of Business.

## SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

### THE CENTRE FOR EXECUTIVE AND MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT

June 19, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The Centre for Executive and Management Development is pleased to announce that it will be hosting Tom Peters at the Telus Centre for Professional Development. Title: Tom Peters: From Excellence to WOW! He will be presenting his latest strategies in From Excellence to WOW! Reinventing the rules for the Brand New Workplace. For more information please visit [www.cemd.ca](http://www.cemd.ca) or call (780) 492-8502.

### CANADIAN COCHRANE SYMPOSIUM 2001

The Canadian Cochrane Symposium 2001 will be held in Edmonton, Alberta November 22-24, 2001. Location: Bernard Snell Hall. Times: 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. The Symposium will include presentations and hands-on sessions focused on the theme of "Marketing the Evidence" for good healthcare decision making. Speakers will cover the Canadian and International perspectives of this topic. Deadlines for submission of abstracts is June 15, 2001. For more information, please visit the Symposium website at: <http://www.ualberta.ca/CCNC/symposium2001>

## EXHIBITION

### McMULLEN GALLERY

April 7 to June 3, 2001

Now showing at the McMullen Gallery, "Sculpture: An Intimate Conversation" is an inside exposé of the sculptors' world. Exhibiting artists will be conducting FREE demonstrations/workshops each Thursday between 2 to 5 p.m. at the McMullen Gallery commencing Thursday, April 19. Hours of the Gallery: Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, 1 to 8 p.m. 8440 - 112 Street. Phone 407-7152. Email: [spointe@cha.ab.ca](mailto:spointe@cha.ab.ca) Contact Michelle Casavant or Susan Pointe.

### FRENCH LANGUAGE CAFES

Drop in and practice your French conversation with a friendly group that meets Saturdays, 1:30 to 3:00 p.m., at Luna Loca Café, 8409 - 112 Street. All

# talks

Submit talks and events to Cora Doucette by 9 a.m. one week prior to publication. Fax 492-2997 or e-mail at [cora.doucette@ualberta.ca](mailto:cora.doucette@ualberta.ca).

### ALBERTA HERITAGE FOUNDATION FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

May 22, 11:00 a.m.

Visiting Speaker (Biochemistry Recruitment) Dr. Natalie C.J. Strynadka, Department of Biochemistry, University of British Columbia, "Structural Analysis of Potential Antibiotic/Vaccine Targets on the Bacterial Membrane." Room 2-31 Medical Sciences Building. Host: Dr. Joel H. Weiner.

May 23, 11:00 a.m.

Visiting Speaker (Biochemistry Recruitment) Dr. Mark W. Paetzel, Department of Biochemistry, University of British Columbia, "Structural and Mechanistic Analysis of Signal Peptidase: An Essential Enzyme in the Transport of Proteins Across Biological Membranes." Room 2-31 Medical Sciences Building. Host: Dr. Joel H. Weiner.

### DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

May 23, 4:30 p.m.

Stephen J. O'Brien, "The genes that limit AIDS." Room M-149, Biological Sciences Building.

June 4, 1:00 p.m.

Markus Thormann, "The Role of the Fungal Communities of Southern Boreal Peatlands." Room M-141, Biological Sciences Building.

### JOHN DOSSETOR HEALTH ETHICS CENTRE

May 22, 1:00 p.m.

Reidar Lie, M.D., PhD, University of Bergen, Norway, "Justice and International Research: What are the Obligations to Trial Communities?" Room 2J4.02 Walter Mackenzie Centre.

skill levels welcome, no registration required, no fee. University facilitator in attendance. Information: 492-2325.

## LUNCH AND LEARN PRESENTATIONS

### HEALTH RECOVERY SUPPORT UNIT, HUMAN RESOURCES

May 18, 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Carol Chandler from Chandler Haave Vandersteen Carter presents "Parenting after Separation and Divorce: A Survival Guide."

May 23, 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Karen Bell from Lousage Institute presents "Getting the Love you want in your Marriage."

May 28, 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Debbie Goethe, Lousage Institute, presents "A Guide to Parenting: Toddlers, Adolescence and Teens."

May 31, 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Angie LaBerge, Priority One, presents "How to Increase your Self-Confidence."

Snacks and cold beverages will be provided; seating is limited. To register or for more information, contact Sarah Treby at 492-0659, email: [sarah.treby@hrs.ualberta.ca](mailto:sarah.treby@hrs.ualberta.ca)

Location: Heritage Lounge, Athabasca Hall. Cost: Free!

## NANUC

### THE NATIONAL HIGH FIELD NMR CENTRE (NANUC)

August 17, 2001, afternoon

Seminar presentation entitled "Prion Protein Structural Biology and the Mad Cow Crisis" by the preeminent NMR spectroscopist and prion researcher Dr. Kurt Wuthrich. The seminar will take place in Snell Hall. Everyone is invited. For more information, call Bruce Lix, 492-8530.

### STANDARD FIRST AID/HEARTSAVER COURSES

The Office of Environmental Health & Safety has arranged for Standard First Aid/Heartsaver courses to be held on campus once again this year. The training is comprised of two full-day sessions (8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) with morning, lunch and afternoon breaks. The cost is \$80.00 per person. The first course will be held in early April and the last at the end of October. Registration is limited due to classroom size. For further information and registration forms please call Cindy Ferris at 492-1810 or e-mail [cindy.ferris@ualberta.ca](mailto:cindy.ferris@ualberta.ca)

## THEATRE

### STUDIO THEATRE

May 17 to 26

Play "The Country in Her Throat" is at the Timms Centre for the Arts, 87 Avenue and 112 Street. All evening performances are at 8:00 p.m. with a matinee on Thursday, May 24 at 12:30 p.m. Tickets are available at the Timms Centre Box Office from 12 noon to 5:00 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, or by calling 492-2495. The play is sponsored by The Edmonton Journal and Gourmet Goodies.

### DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

May 31, 5:30 p.m.

First Annual A.M. Edwards Lectureship in Clinical Education, "Bedside Teaching and the Ethical Core of Medicine." Speaker: Dr. Faith Fitzgerald, Acting Chair, Department of Dermatology, University of California, School of Medicine, Davis. Classroom D (2F1.04) Walter Mackenzie Centre.

### MOLECULAR AND CELL BIOLOGY OF LIPIDS

May 25, 10:00 a.m.

Ji-Hyeon Kim, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, "Fatty Acid Partitioning: Role of Acyl-CoA Synthetases." Room 352 Heritage Medical Research Centre. Hosted by Dr. Jean Vance and the CIHR Group on Molecular and Cell Biology of Lipids.

### DEPARTMENT OF PHYSIOLOGY

May 18, 3:00 p.m.

Dr. Chi-Chung Chan, Merck Frosst Centre for Therapeutic Research, "From powder to pills: Discovery of the selective Cox-2 inhibitor rofecoxib (Vioxx)." Room 207 Heritage Medical Research Centre.

### DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH SCIENCES

May 18, 12:00 to 1:15 p.m.

Dr. Pim Martens, Maastricht University, The Netherlands and Dr. Kristie Ebi, Electric Power Research Institute, California, on "Climate Change and Human Health." Room 2-115, Clinical Sciences Building. Enquiries: Dr. Colin L. Soskolne, 492-6013.

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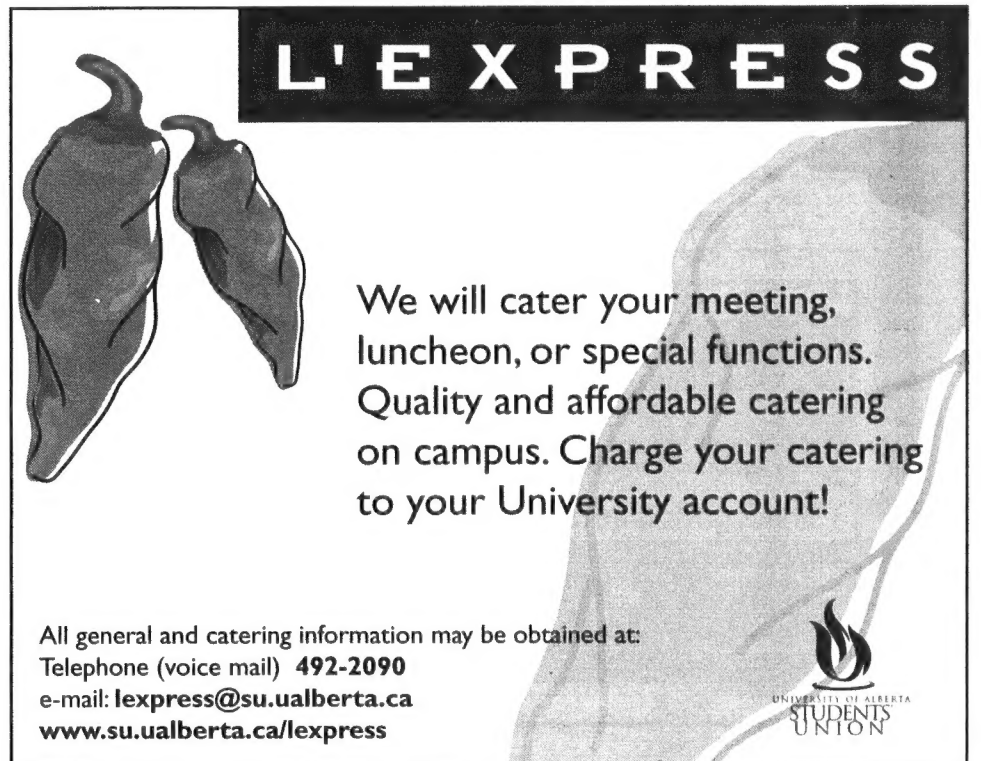


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UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA STUDENTS UNION

## Project Associate (Part-time) Centre for Constitutional Studies Faculty of Law



The Centre for Constitutional Studies at the Faculty of Law, University of Alberta invites applications for the position of Project Associate (part-time, 18-20hrs/wk). This position is available on June 1, 2001.

The Project Associate will work with the Executive Director in various capacities. These include, but are not limited to, general support and research for the Centre's numerous conferences, workshops and seminars; editorial assistance; and general support of fund raising and grant applications.

### Qualifications:

Applicants should have advanced training in law and/or social sciences and related experience. Knowledge of Canadian constitutional issues, experience in grant applications and fluency in both official languages would all be assets.

### Deadline for Applications:

Applications must be received by May 25, 2001.

### Apply to:

**Dr. Tsvi Kahana, Executive Director**  
Centre for Constitutional Studies  
459 Law Centre  
University of Alberta  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T6G 2H5  
Telephone: (780) 492-5681  
Fax: (780) 492-9959

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## The Eric Geddes/Alberta Heritage Foundation For Medical Research Research Fellowship in Health Organization Studies

The Eric Geddes/AHFMR Research Fellowship in Health Organization Studies will enable highly qualified doctoral graduates to conduct research related to the organization and function of the health system. Currently a research group within the Department of Strategic Management and Organization in the School of Business is studying the regionalization of the Alberta health system from an organizational change perspective. Particular areas being studied are organizational change in primary care and continuing care, the use of advanced nurse practitioners and overall changes in the structure and functioning of regions. Candidates will have a demonstrated ability to conduct research independently, experience in conducting field-based research, and a good understanding of health care organization. They will work under the direction of Professor Bob Hinings and Dr. Karen Golden-Biddle in establishing their particular aspects of the research.

Candidates for this award must have a doctoral degree from a recognized institution and be in an appropriate field of study. This is a competitive award intended to enable highly qualified doctoral graduates to pursue advanced research in health organization studies. The salary for this position will be in the range of \$30,000 - \$40,000 (Canadian dollars). The Fellowship may be held for up to three years.

Letters of application for the position, together with a current Curriculum Vitae should be sent to:

Dr. Michael B Percy  
Stanley A Milner Professor and Dean  
School of Business  
University of Alberta

Applications must be received by the close of business (4:00 pm) on Wednesday May 23, 2001. An Advisory Committee will consider all applications in competition.

**For further details of these positions, please contact**

Professor Bob Hinings,  
Ph: 780-492-2801, chinings@ualberta.ca; or  
Dr. Karen Golden-Biddle,  
Ph: 780-492-8901,  
Karen.Golden-Biddle@ualberta.ca



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**ASPEN GARDENS**, fabulous split-level. Unique plan. Three bedrooms plus den. Extensively renovated. Fully furnished. July 1, 2001 - July 31, 2002. \$1,300 plus utilities. Pets okay. Non-smokers. Janet Fraser, Gordon W.R. King and Associates Real Estate, 441-6441.

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**EXECUTIVE TWO BEDROOM** furnished condo near U of A. Two baths, two fireplaces, loft, patio, underground parking. \$1,300 month. September 1. Phone (780) 743-0330.

**WINDSOR PARK EXECUTIVE HOME**, Saskatchewan Drive. Walk to University. Five bedrooms, three baths, furnished. \$2,000/month plus utilities. No pets. E. Millar, 439-0130.

**RIVER VALLEY VIEW**. Executive home. Rundle Heights. Furnished or unfurnished. Four bedrooms, two baths, five appliances, two fireplaces. Jacuzzi, family room, office, attached garage, fenced yard. Non-smoker, no pets. References. August 1 - June 15 lease. \$1,050/month plus utilities. 780-465-8360, hspaling@kingsu.ab.ca

**FURNISHED HOUSE, GREENFIELD**. August 2001 - July 2002. Three bedroom open beam bungalow. Finished basement, two fireplaces, sauna, three bathrooms. Close to excellent English and French Immersion schools. Convenient bus and bike routes to U of A. One year lease, \$1,100/month, plus utilities. Non-smokers, no pets. (780) 437-7321.

**THREE BEDROOM HOME** in older neighbourhood. Fully furnished, hardwood floors, close to downtown, University. Available September - April. 454-7131, evenings.

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**MILL CREEK**, charming character two storey home with refinished hardwood floors. Upgraded kitchen main floor bath, double garage with new roof. Janet Fraser, Gordon W.R. King and Associates R.E., 441-6441.

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**LENDRUM BUNGALOW** - choice location. Bike to U of A. Open beam style, hardwood, fireplace, three bedrooms, single garage. Florence Thompson, Prudential Spencer Real Estate, 483-7170.

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### ACCOMMODATIONS WANTED

**HOUSE RENTAL DESIRED**. New faculty member wishes 6-12 month rental in University area beginning August/September. Loves pets, plants; sabbatical home ideal. Contact John Volpe, 250 385-2655 (Victoria), jvolpe@uvic.ca

**EXPERIENCED HOUSESITTER**. U of A graduate student, looking for place to stay. Starting end of August, willing to take pets. References available. Amie, 464-2645, achomik@hotmail.com

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# positions

The records arising from this competition will be managed in accordance with provisions of the Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA).

The University of Alberta hires on the basis of merit. We are committed to the principle of equity of employment. We welcome diversity and encourage applications from all qualified women and men, including persons with disabilities, members of visible minorities, and Aboriginal persons.

## INSTITUTE CO-ORDINATOR INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF QUALITATIVE METHODOLOGY UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

Applications are being accepted for a full-time Institute Co-ordinator position with the International Institute of Qualitative Methodology (IIQM). IIQM is a multidisciplinary Institute at the University of Alberta and is a leader in qualitative research and education.

The Institute Co-ordinator should have a Masters Degree in business, health or a health-related discipline, and strong experience in administration. The successful candidate should also possess excellent organizational and group facilitation skills, excellent communication skills, and a strong record of business and operational planning. Experience in innovative management and financial sustainability strategies are desirable.

Further information about the Institute can be found at: [www.ualberta.ca/~iiqm/](http://www.ualberta.ca/~iiqm/)

The position offers a salary range of \$36,000 - \$58,000.

Closing date for applications is May 25.

Please send applications to:

Health Sciences Office

300 Campus Tower, University of Alberta

8625 - 112th St.

Edmonton, AB, T6G 2T3

## MANAGER, COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS INDUSTRY LIAISON OFFICE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

The University of Alberta's Industry Liaison Office (ILO) is seeking an experienced individual to direct, through hands-on involvement, its communications, marketing, and public affairs activities.

The core business of ILO is focused on three key activities: technology transfer and commercialization, contract administration, and university/industry partnerships and development. ILO's primary clients are the researchers and specialized research and business initiatives, institutes and centres at the university; ILO's stakeholders encompass the university, government agencies, and a broad diversity of other public and private sector organizations; networks include organizations within Alberta, across the four Western provinces, and national in focus.

The Manager, Communications and Public Affairs, will assume a leadership role in profiling and promoting ILO services and business performance. Current communication and marketing vehicles include the ILO Web site, an annual report, electronic newsletter, specialized reports, presentation, promotional, and display materials, and special events development. Targeted outcomes include increased awareness, support for, and utilization of ILO services, timely documentation and profiling of performance output/outcome, and enhanced relationships with stakeholders and clients.

ILO is seeking an individual with a university degree, with subsequent additional training in communications and public relations and demonstrated experience in overseeing design and production of

publications, special event planning and execution, and Web site development. Knowledge of the university environment and technology transfer/commercialization processes would be an asset. Superior writing and interpersonal skills are essential. Accreditation by IABC or CPRS is desirable.

ILO is targeting to fill the position as soon as possible. Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience. Interested parties should submit résumés, along with samples of their work, via mail or electronically to the address below by June 15. Receipt of applications will be acknowledged by e-mail; candidates selected for interview will be notified by June 20.

Attention: Ms. Kendel Ferrier

University of Alberta

Industry Liaison Office

222 Campus Tower

8625 - 112 Street

Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 2E1

(e-mail: [kferrier@sonicmail.ilo.ualberta.ca](mailto:kferrier@sonicmail.ilo.ualberta.ca))

## PROFESSOR, HEALTH POLICY AND MANAGEMENT UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

The Department of Public Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, University of Alberta, is offering a full-time academic, tenure-track position in our ACEHSA-accredited Health Policy and Management Program. The position will be at the associate or full professor level, salary to be commensurate with experience, plus a comprehensive benefits package. Candidates who have health policy, management, health economics, or related expertise and background, and a demonstrated record in health services research and graduate education will be considered. Applicants must have a PhD or equivalent in health services research or related field. The department is diverse, and offers MPH (course-based) and MPH (thesis-based) degree programs, an MSc (Occupational Health), and both an MSc and PhD Medical Sciences (Public Health Sciences) in the areas of environmental health sciences, epidemiology, and population health. The department offers a post-graduate medical education program in Occupational Medicine accredited by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, and has a developing interest in health informatics.

The competition will remain open until a suitable candidate has been found. Curriculum vitae citing three references are to be sent to:

Dr. T. W. Noseworthy, Chair

Health Policy & Management Search Committee

Department of Public Health Sciences

13-103 CSB

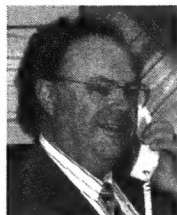
Edmonton, Alberta

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The records arising from this competition will be managed in accordance with provisions of the Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA).

The University of Alberta is committed to the principle of equity in employment. As an employer we welcome and encourage applications from all qualified women and men, including Aboriginal peoples, persons with disabilities, and members of visible minorities.

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## Folio on vacation...



Kate Leitch is in?

Any idea where Folio correspondent Kate Leitch (right), took her Folio when she went on vacation recently? Fill out this form and forward to 665 General Services Building by May 28. One name will be drawn from all the correct entries for a prize giveaway.

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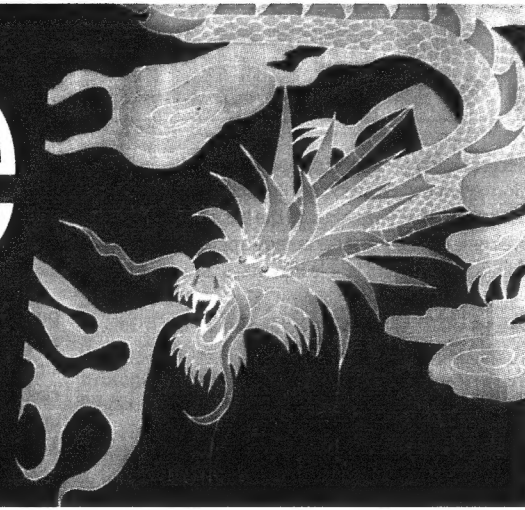
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# wearable art



## Problem-solving exercise turns into art exhibit

By David Beharry

Imagine owning a piece of art you can wear on your back. It's not that much of a stretch—people have been wearing art as decoration throughout recorded history.

Now, University of Alberta students have taken 'wearable art' to a new level. "Their mission was to research methods of creating fabric textures and/or surface embellishments and then to design a garment suitable for entry into an international design competition," said Linda Capjack, a professor in the Department of Human Ecology.

"The goals of the project are to develop problem-solving techniques. The students did the actual designs, applying the knowledge that they had developed throughout the program."

Students explored various methods including Japanese sashiko quilting, trapunto quilting, fabric manipulation techniques, and silk fabric painting. Sashiko quilting utilizes a reverse quilting process. The Japanese design method was originally used to mend worn clothes. Trapunto quilting is a way of adding depth on the surface of the clothes, in

which portions of the fabric are stuffed with material.

Four of the students will have their 'works of art' entered into the professional category for wearable art at the International Textile and Apparel Association Design competition in Kansas City in November.

Katherine Christou's *A Rose by any Other Name* is polyester satin that was stitched using free motion embroidery techniques in a random pattern and then washed.

Jessica Janus produced *Mong Dragon*, a silk evening gown that was hand-painted with Chinese dragons. "Inspiration was Chinese art, folklore and legends," said Janus. Watercolour shading techniques were used to give the dragon a multi-dimensional appearance while rhinestones illuminate its eyes.

Valerie Re's *La Rosaia* is a stunning dupioni silk evening gown that uses trapunto quilting to create origami-like leaves and rose stems.

Organza roses were painted and then applied atop the vines. Metallic lining brings a magical sparkle to the outer garment.

Nicole Wilson's *Alluvium* is created from previously used and non-commercial materials. Fabric for the pants and jacket lining was found at a church rummage sale, while sugar sacks were laced together for the shirt.

"Grades were assigned for experimentation, documentation, critical analysis, pattern development, time management, and preparation of a professional entry for a design competition," said

Capjack. The department also designs functional protective clothing for the oil industry, helicopter pilots and premature babies.

The wearable art is on display at the main floor gallery in the Human Ecology Building. Public viewing is from 7 a.m. – 9 p.m., weekdays, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Saturdays and 12 noon – 4 p.m. Sundays, until the end of May.



folio **back page**

**Stunning student creations (clockwise from top of page):** Detail from *Mong Dragon* by Jessica Janus; Carrie Beattie's *Marriage Kimono*; *Alluvium* by Nicole Wilson; and *La Rosaia (Garden of Roses)* by Valerie Re. These and other pieces of wearable art are on display at the Main Floor Gallery, Human Ecology Building.



Photos by Richard Siemens